



Greta Thunberg Speaks at UK Parliament

Who is Greta Thunberg?

- Greta Thunberg is a 16-year-old climate change activist, who comes from Sweden.
- She has inspired many young people around the world to protest against climate change.

Greta Thunberg spoke to members of **parliament** yesterday, urging them to take action now to tackle climate change. The Swedish **activist** has been in London to talk to members of the Extinction Rebellion.

It's a series of protests in the capital city to draw people's attention to climate change. In a speech to protestors, she said that politicians had "got away with not doing anything at all" to combat climate change.

The 16-year-old campaigner first came to the world's attention when she skipped school in Sweden every Friday. Instead, she would protest outside the Swedish parliament against climate change. Her actions have inspired many young people around the world, not just in Sweden. In the UK and Australia, children have **participated** in climate change protests.

However, some politicians have said that children should not be skipping school to protest. In their opinion, nothing is more important than receiving an education.

Climate change is the changing weather and rising temperature of the Earth. Most scientists believe it's caused by human actions, such as burning fossil fuels for energy. It's been linked to more extreme weather as well as changes in how animals behave.

Many scientists believe that the next few years are crucial in tackling its effects.

They want governments and individuals to



Photo: Greta Thunberg is a climate change activist.

take action now. Protests against climate change have been happening for over a week in London.

On Monday, about 100 protestors laid down at the Natural History Museum, a popular visitor attraction about animals, to illustrate how species are being affected by climate change.

However, the **mayor** of London, Sadiq Khan, said that while he too wanted action on climate change, he was worried about how much time London's police force was spending on the protests.

Glossary

parliament	Where politicians meet to debate and vote on laws.
activist	A person who campaigns to bring about a change.
participated	To have taken part in something.
mayor	The elected head of a town or city council.

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Questions

1. Look at the introduction. Find a verb which is closest in meaning to 'demanding'.

2. Why do you think Greta chose to protest outside the Swedish parliament building?

3. Some people believe that Greta is inspirational. Find a piece of evidence that shows this from the story.

4. Why do you think the protestors chose the Natural History Museum to protest against animal species being wiped out?

5. On Monday, about 100 protestors laid down at the Natural History Museum, a popular visitor attraction about animals, to illustrate how species are being affected by climate change.

In the sentence above, what does the word 'illustrate' mean?

6. Compare and contrast the arguments for and against the protests against climate change?

7. Summarise the story in 20 words or fewer.

Answers

1. Look at the introduction. Find a verb which is closest in meaning to 'demanding'.
urging
2. Why do you think Greta chose to protest outside the Swedish parliament building?
Accept any answer which refers to the story, e.g. I think she protested outside the parliament building as this is where politicians who take decisions on laws meet.
3. Some people believe that Greta is inspirational. Find a piece of evidence that shows this from the story.
Accept any answer which refers to the story, e.g. She has persuaded many young people to protest against climate change; she is speaking at parliament.
4. Why do you think the protestors chose the Natural History Museum to protest against animal species being wiped out?
Accept any answer which refers to the story, e.g. I think they chose the Natural History Museum as it has a lot of information about animals and many people visit it as well so they would get lots of attention.
5. On Monday, about 100 protestors laid down at the Natural History Museum, a popular visitor attraction about animals, to illustrate how species are being affected by climate change.
In the sentence above, what does the word 'illustrate' mean?
Accept any answer which correctly explains 'illustrate' in the correct context, e.g. to show or to demonstrate.
6. Compare and contrast the arguments for and against the protests against climate change?
Some people believe that politicians need to take action and the protests are a way of making them act on climate change. On the other hand, others are worried about the effect the protests are having on the police and that children should not be missing school.
7. Summarise the story in 20 words or fewer.
Accept any reasonable summary that refers to the story, e.g. Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old climate change activist, spoke at parliament today and called for more action.